



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2008**

**Grade 6
Reading**

Reading

❶ An **antonym** for the word shield is

- A. flee.
- B. join.
- C. uncover.
- D. revolve.

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

apply v **1.** to bring into action **2.** to have a connection **3.** to make a request **4.** to put on, spread over, smear

❷ Which is the **best** definition of the word apply as it is used in this sentence?

When Scott's mother noticed his cut, she told him to apply a bandage to the wound.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

Read this Hawaiian fable that describes what one member of a sea star family discovers about her surroundings. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Sea's Treasures

Leslie Ann Hayashi

"I have more than you!" shouted a sea star, pointing to his huge pile of mussels.

"Yeah, but mine are bigger!" replied his younger brother.

"It's how many you have that counts!" the sea star urged.

Seeking quiet from her squabbling brothers, their little sister slipped away to the other side of the reef. There she discovered a beautiful bay. Brilliant shades of aquamarine, turquoise, and sapphire shimmered in the sunlight. Bright blue ocean waves capped with pearly foam rolled gently to the shore. Perched on an endless coral bed were many mussels. Sheltered and protected, the bay was a serene haven.

Each day the young sea star admired the many riches offered by the ocean. She delighted in watching the golden plovers dance near the breaking waves and curtsy to the sea foam. Schools of small fish flashed their silver color near the water's edge, followed by a chorus of "Good morning!"

Sometimes, a large green sea turtle would gently poke its head above the water and then, with a flap of its flipper, dive below the surface. Delighted, the sea star would wave back with one of her five friendly arms.

7 Beyond the reef, the ocean deepened into a dark, almost midnight-blue color, cloaking the marvels of the deep. *What breath-taking mysteries await there?* the sea star wondered.

"If only my foolish brothers could appreciate this. Then they would understand what really counts!" remarked the sea star wistfully. "You have to treasure whatever the sea offers."

As she dined on mussels, the sea star remembered to take only what she needed. After each meal, she never forgot to thank the ocean for generously parting with its riches.

From sunrise to sunset, the sea star cherished each gift from the ocean, whether it was the beauty of the moment or a tasty morsel.

"It doesn't matter how much you have or who has more. What matters is whether you're happy with what you have," the sea star murmured contentedly as she watched the sun set, pouring its golden light into the serene ocean.

- 3 Why does the little sister travel to the other side of the reef?
- A. to find her own mussels
 - B. to imagine her life at sea
 - C. to watch her brothers from a distance
 - D. to separate herself from her brothers

- 4 A synonym for the word squabbling is
- A. forcing.
 - B. pleading.
 - C. arguing.
 - D. terrifying.

- 5 In paragraph 7, the phrase “the ocean deepened into a dark, almost midnight-blue color” describes
- A. the color of mussels.
 - B. how the time changes.
 - C. how the water changes.
 - D. the path to the little sister’s home.

- 6 What is the **main** message of this fable?
- A. Young people have much to learn.
 - B. Take time to explore surroundings.
 - C. People should be satisfied with what they have.
 - D. It is important to use good manners every day.

Read the sentence below and then answer the question that follows.

“You have to treasure whatever the sea offers.”

- 7 Explain how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Use details from the fable to support your answer.

Read this article about how the Marvel Comic Book Company creates comic books. Then answer the questions that follow.

Funny Papers: Behind the Scenes of the Comics

Elaine Scott

- 1 At Marvel, as at all publishers, the story comes first. Creating the story is often a group effort by the editor, the writer, and the artist. Those three people meet together to discuss story ideas. Then the writer produces an outline of the story and sends it on to the artist, or penciler, as that person is called in the comic book business. The penciler draws a rough draft of each page of the comic book, based on the writer's outline. This rough draft is called a storyboard. As in a comic strip, the action takes place in panels and the dialogue is in balloons—but the balloons are left empty at this point.

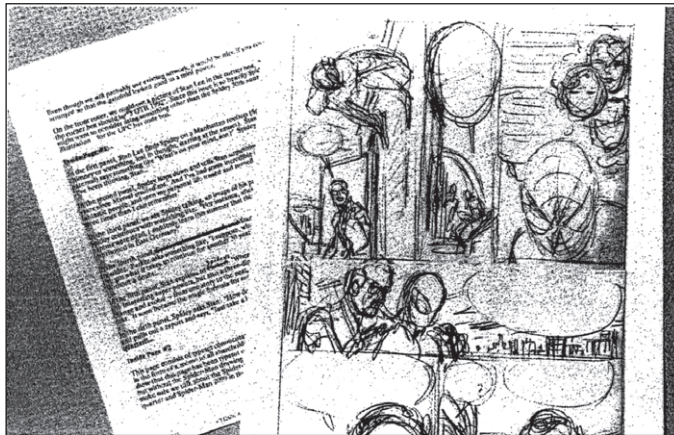


Figure 1

Comic books begin with a story outline and a rough pencil sketch.

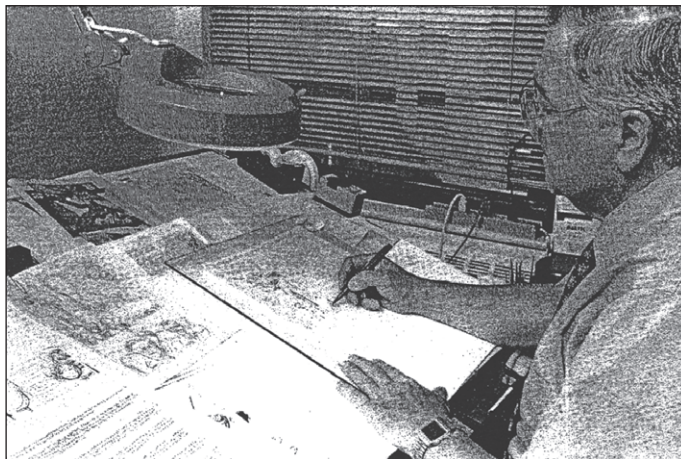


Figure 2

Pencilers do a final drawing of the rough sketch.

When everyone—the editor, the artist, and the writer—is satisfied with the storyboards for each page, the pages go back to the writer to decide on the exact words for the balloons. Next comes a rough pencil dummy to show the page layout; then a final pencil drawing of each page is made.

- 3 A photostat, or photographic copy, is made of that pencil drawing, and the pages are then ready for the next step—inking. Ink artists carefully go over the pencil artist's work, using permanent black ink; then the pages go to a letterer, who inserts the dialogue in the balloons.

Finally, the pages are ready to be colored, and there is a separate artist, called a colorer, to do that work. The art for the cover is painted, and the comic is ready to go to a production facility to be printed.



Figure 3

The final pencil drawing goes to an inker.

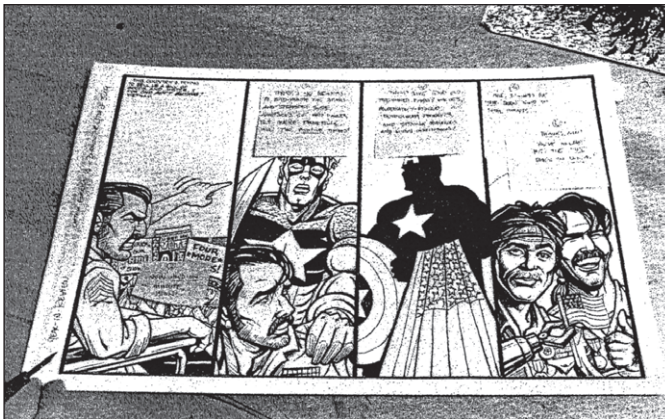


Figure 4

After the picture is inked, the story is lettered in balloons.

8 According to the first paragraph, what does the penciler do?

- A. writes down ideas for the comic book
- B. constructs the cover of the comic book
- C. tells the story through pictures
- D. chooses the best words for the story

9 What happens **before** the balloons in a comic book are filled with words?

- A. The editor, artist, and writer agree on the storyboard.
- B. The publisher asks the public's opinion of the story.
- C. The editor, artist, and writer create another story.
- D. The publisher examines the quality of the storyboard.

10 What is the job of an ink artist?

- A. to create additional drawings
- B. to trace the artist's drawings
- C. to check for errors in the artist's drawings
- D. to think of ideas for the drawings

11 In paragraph 3, the word permanent means that the ink is

- A. dry.
- B. clear.
- C. lasting.
- D. reflecting.

12 Explain how **Figure 1 and Figure 4** are different. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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Grade 6 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	LI	WV	LA	LA	LA	II	II	II	WV	II
GLE Code	5-3	5-2	5-4	5-3	5-6	5-5	5-5	5-7	5-7	5-7	5-3	5-7
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	C	D	D	C	C	C		C	A	B	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response